February 9, 2016

Louisiana Ethics Administration Program P.O. Box 4368 Baton Rouge, La. 70821

Re: Request for Advisory Opinion

I would like to request an ethics opinion on the following:

I am currently a Louisiana Department of Education employee within the Child care Licensing Division. My current job duties include licensing child care center within the New Orleans and Northshore Region. I was recently approached regarding becoming a certified Mental Health Consultant with the Department of Health and Hospitals. The Mental Health Consultant's job duties include conducting staff trainings at child care centers. These trainings are paid for by the child care center. In speaking with DHH I informed them that I was currently employed with LDOE and in the capacity of licensing child care centers within a specific region. I informed DHH that I had no intentions on leaving full time state employment with LDOE until retirement in 2018. I informed DHH that I may have to wait until retirement before becoming a certified Mental Health Consultant under DHH. It was then explained to me by the DHH representative, that there should not be any ethical issues if I decided to become a certified Mental Health Consultant through DHH prior to retirement due to:

- 1. DHH only certifies the Mental Health Consultant and places the Mental Health Consultant for selection on a list for individual Child Care Centers.
- The Child Care Centers directly pay the Mental Health Consultant for services rendered and DHH is not responsible for payment to the Mental Health Consultant.
- 3. I would be only allowed to conduct trainings in regions where I do not currently License dau care centers under the LDOE.

An example would be that I could not provide Saturday training to Child Care Center Staff that are employed at Child Care Centers within my current region (New Orleans/Northshore). However I would be able to provide Saturday training to Child Care Center Staff that are employed within other regions (Jefferson/Houma/Terrebone)

I would like to request an ethical opinion on whether I would be able to currently continue working within my full-time State position with LDOE-Licensing Child Care Centers and also become a Certified Mental Health Consultant with DHH, placed on a certified Mental Health Consultant list, and provide training to child care centers that are not within my region.

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